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Dated: March 11, 2008

Signature: Oliver T. Ong

(Oliver T. Ong)

Docket No.: 06005/37170
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Michael D. Apel et al.

Application No.: 09/871,115

Confirmation No.: 9797

Filed: May 31, 2001

Art Unit: 2182

For: INPUT/OUTPUT DEVICE WITH
CONFIGURATION, FAULT ISOLATION AND
REDUNDANT FAULT ASSIST FUNCTIONALLY

Examiner: T. Q. Nguyen

COMMENT ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

MS Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In addition to the reasons for allowance set forth in the allowance papers that were mailed in connection with the present application, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable for the additional reasons that the invention defined by the language of the claims is neither anticipated by, nor would have been obvious when taken as a whole in view of, the art of record.

Moreover, while claim 80 is amended to recite an I/O device, Applicants submit that a field device can be an I/O device.

Dated: March 11, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By Oliver T. Ong
Oliver T. Ong

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